economic zone has been enhanced substantially over the years. This is an on-going process. Such measures are regularly updated by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard in corrdination with other concerned agencies.

Transfer of High Technology Weaponry by United States

1665. SHRI VIAJY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major move, the United States has sent communication that it is ready for transfer of high technology weaponry to India including its 5th generation joint Strike Fighter F-35;

(b) whether Government's clearance that there will be no going back on military interaction with foreign forces including US, would continue;

(c) whether both India and USA has reached an agreement for supply of hi-tech weapons to India to improve the military technology; and

(d) whether Indian armed forces exercise and interaction with foreign forces are for upgradation of skills to get them acquainted with hi-tech weapons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Indian Armed Forces Exercises with Foreign Forces are being conducted with the aim of building mutual trust and confidence, enhancing military-to-military cooperation and interoperability.

These exercises also help in enhancing the capability of our Armed Forces through exchange of best practices and procedures and exposure to advanced technology/ systems.

Opinion of IN and ICG on Sethusamudram Project

†1666. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether official opinion on destruction of Ramsetu/bridge under Sethusamudram project was sought from Defence Ministry, Indian Navy and Indian coast Guard;

(b) if so, the suggestion given by them and why it was kept under wraps sc far; and

(c) if not sought, why the opinion of these important Departments not being held necessary?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.